

Directorate CEC/EC: DA/OL

Initiative Name and FY: Color Lab Automation - 1992

Date of Full Operating Capability: 1996

<u>Cost Estimate:</u>	(Dollars in Thousands)				
	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>
Positions	0	0	0	0	0
Funds	\$150	175	200	750	200

Problem to be Addressed: On any given day, Agency requests for Color photographic print products exceed 100% of plant capacity. In addition, the demand for color products is increasing at a steady rate of 15% per year and is expected to do so for the foreseeable future. Of further concern is the fact that, for the past several months, customer requirements dictate a more rapid product delivery time. Work that in the past has been delivered in one to two weeks is now required in less than 72 hours. As a consequence, the Printing and Photography Group (P&PG) must expand its current capabilities in order to continue to provide timely photographic support for the Agency-at-large without further taxing an already stressed overtime condition.

Proposal: The focus of this 1992 initiative will be to procure hardware that will increase Color Lab productivity with no additional personnel. Specifically, the hardware will consist of a series of automated, mini-lab printing systems with future (1995) prospects for a hands-off, fully integrated, computer-controlled film processing system.

Justification for Proposal: To allow P&PG to meet growing customer requirements, speed up product delivery and, simultaneously, reduce the need for overtime.

Description of Funding Requirements: The total cost for this initiative is estimated to be \$1,475,000.00. The figures for 1992, 1993, 1994, and 1996 represent new, automated, mini-lab type equipment. The figure for 1995 includes an estimated \$250,000.00 for the replacement of our conventional processors, \$350,000.00 for necessary modifications to the physical plant environment (dust-free, humidity control, etc.), and \$150,000.00 for the industrial computer and specialized sensing equipment required to convert the film processing aspects of the Color laboratory to a fully integrated operation.

Coordination: Not required.

Space Impact: Only the interior renovation of existing space is anticipated.